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**OVMC PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY ROOM OVERCROWDING FINANCING PLAN**

The Department of Health Services (DHS), working with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Chief Executive Office, has put together a proposal to address the overcrowding of the DHS hospital psychiatric emergency rooms. DHS and DMH have made the expansion and renovation of the current psychiatric emergency room at Olive View-UCLA Medical Center the top priority of their proposal. Remodeling the psychiatric emergency room will increase its capacity and improve the physical configuration of the area to address the specific needs of this patient population.

This project is critical to address the ongoing overcrowding problems experienced at Olive View. Over the past year, the hospital has experienced increased regulatory scrutiny and citations as a result of the overcrowded space, in which its medical personnel must attend to this challenging patient population. The hospital corrective action to open additional “emergency” beds in an unused inpatient unit on the sixth floor when the main Psychiatric Emergency Room hits physical capacity, has satisfied the regulators; however, this solution is far from optimal and should not be viewed as a permanent solution to address the demands of this service. This temporary solution creates other challenges associated with the repeated movement of these fragile patients between the main psychiatric emergency room and the sixth floor unit, and results in an inefficient distribution of staffing.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors amend Item 36 to instruct the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report back with a financing plan for a prioritized psychiatric emergency services decompression plan to be considered as part of the Board’s adoption of the Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget.

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